**CONNECTICUT CONTINUING CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting Held Via Microsoft Teams**

**June 11, 2021**

**Attendance**

The following members were present: Mag Morelli, Chair, Jonathan Fink, Peggy Joyce, Fred Langhoff, Andrew Nesi, Jennifer Rannestad, Keith Robertson, William Thompson, Jon Paul Venoit, Maureen Weaver and Rich Wysocki

Nicole Godburn from DSS and several members of the public were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Morelli at 10:02 a.m. and the attendees were informed that the meeting was being recorded. The Committee members and members of the public in attendance then introduced themselves.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the March 19, 2021 meeting were approved.

**Department of Social Services Comments**

Mr. Wysocki reported that there have been no major issues involving Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) that have been reported to DSS.

**Around the Table Updates**

Ms. Morelli gave a legislative update and reported on the bills passed in the recent regular session of the state legislature that will impact nursing homes and assisted living communities.

A question was raised regarding the new state health information exchange and a discussion ensued.

Ms. Rannestad reported on the workforce shortage that is facing the CCRCs and her comments were supported by the other provider representatives on the committee. She also reported on the reopening of her campus and the resilience of the CCRC model in retaining and regaining occupancy in the independent living area. She also commented on the rising cost of food and some reported scarcities of certain types of food products. Finally, she reported that she has been advised by her local officials that the American Rescue Plan Act funding being sent to municipalities may be a resource for senior housing.

Mr. Venoit reported that his community is also facing the pressures of the current workforce crisis and supported Ms. Rannestad’s observation that the independent living area of the life plan community is doing well. He reported that the nursing home sector is facing census challenges.

Mr. Robertson, a financing consultant in the field, supported the observation that the CCRC model has proven to be resilient throughout the pandemic. He stated that nationwide, the CCRC model is doing better than other senior living models in regaining census. Mr. Robertson also reported that the financing market is currently favorable for providers as interest rates are very low.

Ms. Joyce reported on some creative strategies that her community has employed to recruit and retain staff. She also thanked the Hamden community for recently honoring the staff at Whitney Center.

Mr. Langhoff reported that his community is also dealing with the current workforce shortages and that they are looking to update and renovate their health center.

Ms. Weaver updated the committee on the recent EEOC guidance on vaccination mandates and a discussion ensued.

**Comments from the Public**

Gail Janensch, a resident of 3030 Park Watermark, reported that she is still in the process of updating ConnCCRA’s Guidebook for Prospective CCRC Residents and will plan to update it annually.

Carol Issacs, a resident of Ashlar Village, voiced concern about the hesitancy of her fellow residents to socialize even though many of the Covid19 related restrictions have been lifted for vaccinated individuals.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting date will be September 24, 2021 and the meeting will be held at Masonicare at Ashlar Village in Wallingford. Mr. Wysocki will explore the possibility of providing a virtual option for members of the committee.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.